



# Health Services

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County  
Board of Supervisors

Gloria Molina  
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky  
Third District

Don Knabe  
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich  
Fifth District

Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.  
Director

Hal F. Yee, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.  
Chief Medical Officer

Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.  
Deputy Director, Strategic Planning

313 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 912  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tel: (213) 240-8101  
Fax: (213) 481-0503

[www.dhs.lacounty.gov](http://www.dhs.lacounty.gov)

*To ensure access to high-quality, patient-centered, cost-effective health care to Los Angeles County residents through direct services at DHS facilities and through collaboration with community and university partners.*



[www.dhs.lacounty.gov](http://www.dhs.lacounty.gov)

March 1, 2013

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Mitchell H. Katz, M.D. *Mitchell Katz*  
Director

SUBJECT: **SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION FOR \$1.8 MILLION  
FEDERAL GRANT: "STRONG START FOR MOTHERS  
AND NEWBORNS" CMS INITIATIVE**

I am very pleased to announce that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has granted the Department of Health Services (DHS) a projected \$1.8 million dollars to implement "Strong Start for Mothers and Newborns" Initiative in the County of Los Angeles. The grant amount is to develop and implement innovative prenatal care strategies to achieve better health outcomes. The grant is for a four year period.

One of our DHS transformation strategies has been to recruit talented physicians who want to provide great patient care while also working on system improvement. This grant award is a great example of the hard work and dedication by one of our newest physicians, Dr. Erin Saleeby, who in addition to delivering babies at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and serving as Director of Women's Health Programs and Innovation for DHS, is also actively searching for new funding streams to help our patient populations. The innovations that Dr. Saleeby and her team will develop include creation of organized care teams to improve care coordination and patient access; enhanced case management services for high-risk women; utilization of Health Information Technology (HIT); and continuous quality improvement processes to track outcome measures and support rapid-cycle improvements. The care delivery teams will focus on addressing issues of substance use, social stability, food and housing scarcity, behavioral health problems, and intimate partner violence. Telemedicine will be utilized to facilitate care in the Medical Home. Additionally, a major focus of the initiative is to actively engage community organizations in the plan of care to enable the creation of a true "neighborhood for health".

We are very excited about partnering with CMS to begin implementation of this innovative program to improve health care to expectant mothers and children in the County of Los Angeles. As we make progress with this important initiative, we will continue to share updates with your offices.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

MHK:mm

c: Chief Executive Office  
County Counsel  
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors